

WHY MUST YOU FORGIVE THEM?

LIFE STORIES – Part 12

July 26, 2009

Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV) “Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?’ ²² Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but **seventy-seven times.**’ ”

THE PARABLE OF THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

Matthew 18:23-25 (NIV) “Therefore, the **kingdom of heaven is like a king** who wanted to **settle accounts** with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a **man who owed him ten thousand talents** was brought to him. ²⁵ Since **he was not able to pay**, the **master ordered** that he and his wife and his children and **all that he had be sold to repay the debt.**”

Matthew 18:26 (NIV) “The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘**Be patient with me,**’ he begged, ‘and **I will pay back everything.**’ ”

KINGDOM PRINCIPLE: God _____
you to forgive others like He forgave you!

YOU NEED TO LEARN TO FORGIVE BECAUSE...

Σ **GOD HAS FORGIVEN** _____.

Matthew 18:27 (NIV) “The servant's master **took pity on him, canceled the debt** and let him go.”

Matthew 18:28-30 (NIV) “But when that **servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii.** He **grabbed him** and began to **choke him.** ‘**Pay back what you owe me!**’ he demanded. ²⁹ His fellow servant **fell to his knees and begged him,** ‘**Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.**’ ³⁰ But he **refused.** Instead, he went off and **had the man thrown into prison** until he could pay the debt.”

When you feel un-forgiven you tend to be _____.

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) “**Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**”

Σ **RESENTMENT MAKES YOU** _____.

Matthew 18:31-34 (NIV) “When the **other servants saw** what had happened, they **were greatly distressed** and went and **told their master everything** that had happened. ³² Then the master called the servant in. ‘**You wicked servant,**’ he said, ‘**I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.**’ ³³ **Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant** just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master **turned him over to the jailers to be tortured,** until he should pay back all he owed.”

Job 21:23&25 (TEV) “**Some people stay healthy till the day they die.** ²⁵ **Others have no happiness at all; they live and die with bitter hearts.**”

_____ - what you've done to others.

_____ - what others have done to you.

Σ **YOU'LL NEED FORGIVENESS IN THE** _____.

Matthew 18:35 (NIV) “This is **how My heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.**”

Matthew 5:7 (NIV) “**Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.**”

Matthew 6:14-15 (TEV) “**If you forgive others the wrongs they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you.** ¹⁵ **But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive the wrongs you have done.**”

Romans 6:23 (NIV) “**For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**”

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT WHAT YOU KNOW?

Do you need to forgive anyone?

The blame test

The bitterness test

The behavior test

You can either _____ your hurt or _____ it.